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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY: China

DATE:

SUBJECT Political Information:  
Meeting of Soviet Journalists and Writers: Rogov's  
Appeal to the "Third Element"

INFO:

DIST. April 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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1. At the regular meeting of the local Soviet journalists and writers, presided over by Yakshamin, a resolution to be sent to Moscow was introduced by Yakshamin which condemned such Soviet writers as Mrs. Anna Achmatoff and M. Zoschenko for their bourgeois tendencies, and demanded strong censorship of Soviet literature and journalism. In a speech declaring the necessity for such measures, Yakshamin said that only by following the lead of the Communist party and adopting Communist ideology without criticism will the USSR survive under the present dangerous ideological and political encirclement, which is evident in the revival of reactionary forces throughout the world. He added in conclusion that he was certain his resolution would be adopted by unanimous vote, without discussion.
2. Some members of the conference opposed Yakshamin's resolution on the ground that he failed to show the works considered by the Central Committee of the Communist Party to violate the rules of the Soviet State. Yakshamin was very indignant and accused the members who opposed him of disloyalty to Communist Party leadership. He then left the meeting and Rogov took the chair.
3. Rogov calmly explained that usually, in the USSR, no one dared to comment on the orders of the Central Committee of the Communist Party since it represented the supreme body in the USSR and everyone had to follow its lead blindly. But Rogov personally, took the view that Yakshamin was not justified in expressing such a resolution before he was absolutely certain that the audience was prepared to vote without hesitation. Rogov said that he differentiated between the feeling and conscience of the new local Soviet citizens and those of citizens living in the USSR. He proposed postponement of the meeting and promised to produce evidence against the accused writers at the next meeting which would justify the Communist Party order. Rogov added, "Yakshamin is a good and trusted Communist, but Yakshamin does not understand the difference between our policy in the USSR and our policy abroad. Here, abroad, we will not press our followers to blindly adhere to our leadership. We must tolerate your feeling of freedom to choose your own way of life. Our task is only to persuade you that you are going the wrong way and that our way is right. That means we were aiming to use not only those blind or selfish elements who joined us for reasons of profit, but also those who form the third party elements, very near to us, very friendly to us, even when they are not fully oriented in Communist doctrine. We must gather allies abroad from every strata of society. Yakshamin's attempt revealed that we here in Shanghai cannot fully rely on the numbers of new Soviet citizens since they are still Soviet citizens in name only. Much teaching is required to fully convert you to the Communist cause. Yakshamin forgets that even in the USSR there are only about five million members of the Communist party while millions are not party members. However these millions are considered loyal members of the Soviet Community and State. What is required of

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Document No. 3  
 NO CHANGE in class.   
 DECLASSIFIED  
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77  
 Auth: 60170303-977 TTS  
 Date: 10 APR 1978 By: 024

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Approved For Release 2001/11/23 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000500170003-9  
 Next Review Date: 2008

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you here is loyalty and discipline of such a nature that it will permit you to join our efforts to increase our influence and power over China. Therefore, I require that you:

1. Keep this incident from being used as propaganda by our enemies.
2. Understand that you are not pressed to be blind followers of Communism but that we are interested in your support of our complicated Chinese policy, which we are obliged to follow in the interest of our State.
3. Consider our local Soviet Community, the majority of which were White Russians, as our envoys at large among Chinese and cosmopolitan Shanghai. Your duty is definitely clear. You must mediate between our official policy and local public opinion by persuading the people that the USSR is not a state where only Communist elements are tolerated, but that in the USSR all democratic elements, which are not hostile to the state and the policy of the state, are welcomed and protected. Yakshamin will be present at the next meeting, and I am sure that he will repeat my words and sadness will disappear."
4. This incident was widely commented on by local Soviet circles. It revealed, as was said by rs. V. Ievleva Barbara Nichols, that large differences of opinion existed among the local Soviet leaders.
5. Rogov, as one of the trained and shrewd Comintern agents, well understands the usefulness of the element which is not considered fully pledged to Communism. Rogov's policy is to plant, as much as possible, this third element of the international community as go-between agents without revealing the real Communist organization behind them.

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